

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-02 DHA-05 OMB-01 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2568

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UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 7418

USIA FOR IOP

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE MEDIA REACTS STRONGLY
TO POSTPONEMENT OF SECRETARY'S TRIP

1. THE INFLUENTIAL LA NACION OCTOBER 4
PUBLISHED ONE OF THE STRONGEST ANTI-US
EDITORIALS SEEN IN BUENOS AIRES AT LEAST
SINCE 1975, STATING THAT THE US HANDLING
OF THE PROPOSED VANCE VISIT TO ARGENTINA
"APPEARS SO DISCOURTEOUS THAT IT BECOMES
IRRITATING."

2. LA NACION SAID: "CERTAIN ATTITUDES
HAVE A WELL DEFINED MEANING IN DIPLOMATIC
USAGE WHICH ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO UNPLEASANT
INTERPRETATIONS. ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN
TO THE FACT THAT AFTER PRESIDENT VIDELA
TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON ON THE INVITATION
(OF PRESIDENT CARTER) TO SUPPORT WITH HIS
PRESENCE THE SIGNING OF THE PANAMA CANAL
AGREEMENT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DID NOT
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THINK IT OPPORTUNE OR DESIRABLE TO INCLUDE OUR COUNTRY
IN THE CORWDED PROGRAM OF HIS UPCOMING WORLD EXCURSION.
THIS WAS EVEN MORE NOTABLE SINCE MR. CARTER WILL VISIT
PRESIDENT GEISEL. THE CLOSENESS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES
WOULD HAVE MADE IT EASY FOR HIM TO STOP, ALBEIT BRIEFLY,
IN ARGENTINA. IN THIS SITUATION, WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED,
THE NEW POSTPONEMENT OF MR. VANCE'S TRIP IS HIGHLY

IMPORTANT....., THE IRRITATION CAUSED BY BEHAVIOR WHICH LACKS ANY JUSTIFICATION MUST BE EXPRESSED IN SOME WAY."

3. THE NEWSPAPER WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT THERE REALLY IS NO NEED FOR MORE HIGH LEVEL TRIPS NOW THAT ARGENTINA'S POSITIONS HAVE BEEN SPELLED OUT CLEARLY, AND THAT THEREFORE IT DOES NOT SEEM "CONVENIENT" TO MAKE A THIRD ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT A POSSIBLE VANCE TRIP. LA NACION CONCLUDED "THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT ARGENTINA'S DOORS ARE CLOSED TO HIGH-RANKING ENVOYS, BUT (IT DOES MEAN THAT ARGENTINA HAS) NO SPECIAL DESIRE TO AWAIT ARRIVALS SO REPEATEDLY POSTPONED."

4. ALL MEDIA GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE VANCE-MONTES MEETING AT THE UN. LA PRENSA'S HEADLINE WAS TYPICAL: "MONTES CONFIRMED THAT VANCE WILL COME TO BUENOS AIRES. SAID ONLY DATE REMAINS TO BE DECIDED AFTER MEETING WITH US SECRETARY."

5. BOTH CLARIN AND LA PRENSA CARRIED WIRE SERVICE STORIES FROM WASHINGTON TO THE EFFECT THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID THEY KNEW OF "NO CONCRETE PLANS FOR THE TRIP" AND "NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE."

6. CLARIN COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON THE STOPOVERS IN BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA, OBSERVING POINTEDLY THAT "THE IDENTIFICATION BY THE US GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA AND UNCLASSIFIED

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BRAZIL AS THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE AREA OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN WORLD AFFAIRS DEMONSTRATES HOW COMPLICATED PRESENT RELATIONS ARE (FOR ARGENTINA). WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK, THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS IMPORTANT BUT IT IS NOT EVERYTHING."

7. SEPTTEL CONTAINS EMBASSY ANALYSIS.
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Message Attributes

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